

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

21 MAR 1984  
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The Honorable Jack Brooks, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Legislation and  
National Security  
Committee on Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for a statement of the Agency's policy with regard to sexual preference.

Central Intelligence Agency employees and other persons holding CIA security clearances or approvals are entrusted with access to highly sensitive classified information relating to the national security. Therefore, they must be subject to the most stringent security requirements and processing, which includes a rigorous security investigation into their background and personal conduct.

The security clearance and approval process entails the examination of a sufficient period of a person's life to enable the Agency to make an informed determination concerning the security suitability of that person for access to classified information. This determination is reached by carefully weighing and balancing the possible risks, after taking into account all of the facts and circumstances of the individual case. Of course, due to the sensitivity of the intelligence information at risk, doubts concerning a person being granted access to classified information by the Agency must be resolved in favor of the national security. Homosexual activity, like other sexual conduct, can have security implications and is one of the variables to be considered in evaluating a person's security suitability.

Each security clearance and approval case is judged on its own merits and reflects an assessment of the possible risks to the national security which may result by the Agency providing a particular person with access to classified information.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Director  
Office of Legislative Liaison

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